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SPHAGNUM FAXONII; AN ADDITION TO THE FLORA OF NEW ENGLAND.

CARL WARNSTORF.

We give this article from the well known authority on Sphagna by permission of the Editors of Rhodora, and follow it with one from H. H. Bartlett on the Type Locality. The first article is from Rhodora, March, 1908, and the second from Rhodora, June, 1908. A number of our students are devoting time to the Sphagna so that notes on the subject will be in order. EDITOR.

Since my friend the late Edwin Faxon was one of the original members of the New England Botanical Club, it seems fitting that the Sphagnum which I have recently named in his memory should be brought to the attention of his old associates by publishing in Rhodora a translation of the original description.* I wish to say, by way of preface, that Mr. Faxon, an indomitable collector of Sphagna, sent me for investigation during the nineties thousands of specimens from New England, all prepared with the most pains-taking care. To many others than myself "Sphagna Boreali-Americani Exsiccata," an extremely noteworthy collection of one hundred seventy-two representative specimens of American peat mosses issued by Faxon in collaboration with Professor D. C. Eaton, stands as testimonial to his persevering and accurate work as a collector. Faxon was preeminently lovable, unselfish and modest,—such a man as I have but seldom come in contact with during my life. He translated my "Contributions to the Knowledge of the North American Sphagna" for publication in the Botanical Gazette.† but although I urged him to do so, he did not associate his own name with the articles. I hope that in describing the following moss I have permanently connected the name of this truly exceptional man with his favorite genus.

SPHAGNUM FAXONII Warnst. Forming closely compacted tufts as much as 12 cm. deep, below grayish brown, above pale yellowish, in habit similar to a weak *Sph. cuspidatum* var. *plumosum*. Cortex of two or three layers of cells, plainly differentiated from the strong, pale or yellowish woody axis. Prosenchyma cells widened and thick-walled. Stem leaves (both dry and moist) spreading, isosceles-triangular or in part almost triangular-linguiform, 0.75-1.00 mm. long and 0.50-0.60 mm. broad, at the narrow truncate apex minutely denticulate, otherwise entire, with broad margins which are greatly expanded below the middle. Hyaline cells either not at all or only occasionally septate, fibrillose in the upper third or even to the middle of the leaf, on the inner surface mostly with a few unringed pores between the fibrils, on the outer surface, toward the apex, with a few small corner-pores. Fascicles moderately crowded, generally three- but occasionally four-branched. Branches almost equally strong and spreading, up to 12 mm. in length,

* Neue europäische und aussereuropäische Torfmoose. Hedwigia XLVII, p. 117, (1908).

† Bot. Gaz. XV, pp. 127-140, 189-198, 217-127, 242-255 (1890).

attenuated toward the apex; their leaves crowded, when dry not or hardly at all undulate, when moist slightly turned to one side, lanceolate, on the average 1.40-1.45 mm. long and 0.30-0.35 mm. wide, at the broad truncate apex coarsely three- or four-toothed, narrowly margined by two or three rows of elongated cells, involute clear to the base so as to be almost tubular, entire. Hyaline cells reënforced by numerous fibril-bands, on the inner surface of the leaf with comparatively few generally unringed medium sized pores in the cell angles, on the outer surface with hardly any spores except in the lower cell angles, but occasionally weakly ringed pseudo pores occur in short rows along the commissures of scattered cells. Chlorophyll cells in cross-section usually trapezoidal and exposed on both sides of the leaf, with the longer of the parallel sides exposed on the outer surface, but triangular cells occur sporadically, in which case they are enclosed on the inner surface of the leaf by the strongly under-arching hyaline cells.—Massachusetts, 16 Sept. 1891, leg. Faxon.

This species may be distinguished from *Sph. cuspidatum* by the very narrowly margined branch leaves, from *Sph. angustilimbatum* by much smaller stem leaves which are not fibrillose to the base, and which have the margins broadened below, as well as by the mostly three-branched fascicles with equally divergent branches.

Friendenau, 25 Feb. 1908.

THE TYPE LOCALITY OF SPHAGNUM FAXONII.

HARLEY HARRIS BARTLETT.

The March number of *Rhodora* contains a translation from Hedwigia of the original description of *Sphagnum Faxonii* Warnst. There only the following meagre information is given as to the origin of the type specimen: "Massachusetts, 16 Sept., 1891, leg. Faxon." Warnstorf has been so kind as to send me part of his type material in order that I might match it with more accurately labeled specimens in the duplicate collection of Faxon *Sphagna* at the Harvard Cryptogamic Herbarium, and thus gain accurate knowledge as to the type locality. Search for plants collected on 16 Sept., 1891, proved successful,—enough were found to prove beyond peradventure that on that date Mr. Faxon collected at Streeter Pond in Lisbon, New Hampshire. Furthermore, on that date he collected no peat moss more closely allied to *Sphagnum cuspidatum* (the nearest affinity of *Sphagnum Faxonii* is with this species) than *Sphagnum recurvum* var. *parvifolium*. It seems necessary to conclude, therefore, that both the locality and date given in Warnstorf's article are incorrect.

An examination of all the *Sphagnum cuspidatum* and allied species in the Faxon collection showed but one number which matched the type material of *Sphagnum Faxonii* sent by Warnstorf, namely no. 1049, collected at Sunken Heath, Mt. Desert Island, Maine, 29 June, 1891, by Mr. Faxon, in company with Mr. Rand. This number agrees with the type not only in structural details, but also in those elusive characters of habit which so often give individuality to all the material of the same collection. In the